

April 8, 1974

wants to be heard. Do you have some input. You have not been recognized here since you proposed the amendment. All right, Senator Whitney go ahead.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I simply want to point out the major difference between Stahmer's amendment and the Marvel amendment that is coming up. Senator Marvel wants to delay this six months to a year. Says we have to have a completed study, of this. And I say we are ready to go. And we've made provision in the budget ahead for this. And the thing is that we need community programs out in the state. Why should my people have to go three hundred miles to see a psychiatrist. Why should my people have to drive so far and be hospitalized when they don't have to be hospitalized. They could stay in the work force. Making money for their families. Well, it just seems to me like we are ready to go. We've got to go. We've got to take care of the mental health problems of the people of the state of Nebraska. And so this is the major difference. And Senator Stahmer has put in many of the same amendments, word for word, that Senator Marvel has and so I say that let's reject his amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Maresch.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President and members of the legislature. I wonder if Senator Stahmer will yeild to a question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer yeild.

SENATOR MARESH: Senator Stahmer, I had one tell me..one county board tell me that they were against this bill because there is a duplication of the service. Which tends to create duplication more the Marvel amendment or yours?

SENATOR STAHMER: Sir, I would think that the county having a voice in the operation of what is going on in their region ~~that~~ there would be anyone particular county, they would have more of an input into that region than they would in the state. And I think their voice would be better be heard if they..if there is indeed any duplication that would be eliminated more under the regional approach which is the approach we have already established in mental retardation.

SENATOR MARESH: Senator Stahmer can I tell my board this will eventually be phased out, the duplication if there is a duplication.

SENATOR STAHMER: Absolutely, and if it isn't I would say that it is because the people in that region wanted it. And I doubt if they want it.

SENATOR MARESH: How many years would you say before this duplication does not exist.

SENATOR STAHMER: I don't know whether this is a specific instance to which you speak. But I would assume that if there is some obvious duplication that this would be the first order of business between the commssioners in that region, they would seek to better spend the money to get added service, rather than duplicatory service.